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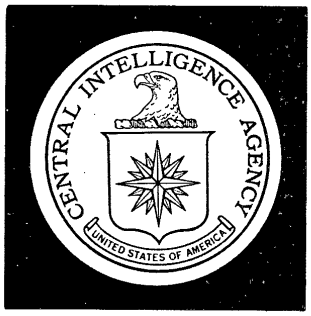

The President's Daily Brief

6 February 1970

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 50X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 February 1970

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

[redacted] 50X1

Leaders of the "front-line" Arab states convene in Cairo tomorrow. *(Page 3)*

France is making efforts on behalf of Jews now prevented from leaving Egypt. *(Page 4)*

[redacted] 50X1

Hanoi is moving more surface-to-air missiles into the southern part of North Vietnam. *(Page 7)*

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USSR-EGYPT

50X1

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USSR - CZECHOSLOVAKIA - EAST GERMANY

50X1

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ARAB STATES

Leaders of the "front-line" states--Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Libya, and the Sudan--begin their conference in Cairo tomorrow. We expect military activities and opportunities during the present crisis to be the prime topics. Options open to the Arabs are limited, however, and differences among the states will continue to impede unified actions.

Yesterday's attack on Israeli ships in Eilat harbor was probably timed to coincide with the Cairo meeting and is clearly designed to reinforce faltering Arab morale. The last such attack, in November 1969, was carried out by Egyptian frogmen operating from Jordanian territory. Israeli retaliation seems certain and may include Egypt as well as Jordan.

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FRANCE - MIDDLE EAST

The French ambassador in Cairo has been directed to make a representation on behalf of Jews who are being prevented from leaving Egypt. A French Foreign Office official told a US Embassy officer on 2 February that similar representations to the Libyans had produced the desired effect, and that Libya was now issuing visas to Jews for the first time since September. He added that French success in obtaining the release of Jews from Egypt might mean "fewer eggs" for Pompidou during his US visit.

In the past, France has kept these initiatives out of the public limelight. Paris now seems anxious that knowledge of its efforts receive a broader dissemination in the hope of producing a cosmetic effect in the West. The French Foreign Office apparently has taken on the mission of countering the hostility aroused by the Libyan Mirage sale prior to Pompidou's trip to the US.

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COMMUNIST CHINA

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

On the stalemated Sino-Soviet border negotiations in Peking, Chou offered little hope for progress. The directive repeated the standard Chinese charge that Moscow is using "military pressure" to force a new "unequal treaty" on China--something Chou declared Peking would never accept. Moving on to SALT, the directive declared that both Moscow and Washington still harbored hope for nuclear superiority and expressed doubt that meaningful agreement could ever be reached.

(continued)

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Laotian Border

50X1

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NOTES

North Vietnam: The Communists are moving more surface-to-air missiles to the southern part of North Vietnam. Preliminary analysis of aerial photography on 3 February revealed three, or possibly four, transporters with missiles along a route about four miles from the Laotian border near the western edge of the Demilitarized Zone. The North Vietnamese have already established several other surface-to-air missile sites near strategic logistic and infiltration trails in the southern part of the country, as noted in The President's Daily Brief of 14 January. A new site just above the Demilitarized Zone would further increase the threat to US air operations over Laos.

USSR: [redacted] 50X1

50X1

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ANNEX

SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

50X1

50X1
50X1

50X1

(continued)

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[redacted] 50X1
the delivery of new, more sophisticated defenses of some sort, such as the SA-3 anti-aircraft missile, radar, or a more modern model MIG--all of which have been sought by Egypt. To be immediately effective, these systems would have to be manned by the Russians themselves. This step-up in Soviet involvement would certainly account for [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] But 50X1
there are disadvantages to the Soviets in this course of action. Foremost, Moscow would have to consider whether a limited number of these weapons would be effective in stopping the Israeli attack--and face the reality that they probably would not.* Also, the Kremlin would have to consider that heavy losses might force it to send more Soviet forces to protect previous commitments--opening the way to a steadily growing direct involvement. [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] Finally, 50X1
they would have to realize that their participation in the fighting might bring diplomatic repercussions from the US and disrupt current bilateral negotiations on important subjects.

A final and more distant possibility is that Moscow has decided to provide offensive weapons to permit retaliation against Israel for the strikes on Cairo and other targets. Such retaliation would be sure to raise the level of conflict and probably would bring on a new general war in the area. While the Soviets may or may not want real peace in the Middle East, they do not want a new war which would be very costly to them and probably humiliating as well.

[redacted] 50X1

[redacted] This could range from beefed-up anti-aircraft artillery to the use of Soviet pilots flying defensive missions. Again, Moscow probably recognizes that defenses left in Egyptian hands would be ineffective--and that a limited number of Soviet combat forces would hardly be any better. 50X1

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* *The Soviets obviously are aware that the simple fact of their involvement will not deter the Israelis.* [redacted] *their belief that the Israelis deliberately attacked the houses where Soviet advisers lived.* 50X1

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